

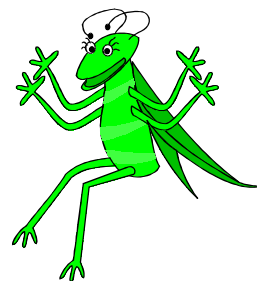


Tracking Down Your Mosquito Problems

Do you have mosquitoes in your house and yard? These insects may be growing in your yard:



- St. Louis encephalitis mosquitoes
- Southern house mosquitoes
- Asian tiger mosquitoes
- Yellow fever mosquitoes
- Tree hole mosquitoes
- Malaria mosquitoes
- Bromeliad mosquitoes



The solution is simple, cheap and pesticide-free. Check your yard for breeding in all locations mentioned and follow these directions.

Do not overlook a single small pool of water; even if there are no mosquito larvae present, they will be back. A half-cup of water can produce enough mosquitoes to cause a problem. Mosquito larvae and pupae will wiggle to the bottom of the container if disturbed. They are $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long.

This document is IFAS publication DH 422.

Adapted by UF/IFAS from:
Documents DH-046 and DH-047, IFAS Disaster Handbook for Extension Agents (developed by the Cooperative Extension Service for the benefit of Florida's citizens)

- Potted plants with pans underneath that hold water are good breeding sites. Don't over-water plants; remove the pan if possible or dump any unnecessary water.
- Drainage ditches with emergent vegetation are big producers. Remove the vegetation and obstructions to water flow, or call your highway department.
- Standing water in low grassy areas, tire tracks and swales can breed mosquitoes. Fill and regrade if possible and keep grass mowed. Check under faucets.
- Roof gutters plugged with leaves hold water and mosquito larvae.
- Replace the water in pet dishes every couple of days.
- Trash or "spare parts" and the like have lots of breeding places. Remove items or cover what cannot be thrown away.
- Check large animal water troughs weekly and flush to remove



- mosquito larvae. Minnows may help in shaded troughs.
- Old tires are a favorite of yellow fever and tiger mosquitoes. Discard tires or put in a building. If not possible, stack tires flat and cover the top of each stack.
 - Cover rain barrels with house screening to prevent mosquitoes from laying eggs.
 - Unused or poorly maintained pools, particularly kiddie wading pools, will breed mosquitoes. Empty pools, flush weekly or add chlorine as required.
 - Bromeliads and other plants that hold water need to be checked weekly and flushed with water to remove larvae that are sometimes difficult to see among the debris in the leaf axil.
 - Water-filled tree holes are favorite breeding sites. Check branches as well as the trunk for holes. Fill with sand or cement.
 - Flat roofs that get lots of leaf litter can harbor mosquitoes. Removing the debris should solve the problem.
 - Mosquitoes in natural or man-made ponds can be prevented by removing any vegetation or stocking with minnows.
 - Boats on trailers, dry docked or unused, will collect water and breed mosquitoes if not covered or turned upside down.
 - Bird baths, barbecue grills, ash trays and other small containers that hold water can produce mosquitoes. Cover grills, overturn or remove containers, or flush with water at least once a week.
 - In cemeteries, use bronze urns or make sure the drain holes of stone vases are not plugged. Use silk flowers instead of fresh-cut, and place them in a wire holder rather than a container.

If water basins are too large to dump, be sure to cover them tightly so that air will not penetrate the cover. Spraying the water with household insecticides intended for ants, roaches, and flies is ineffective and will not eliminate the problem.

Do not put gasoline, salt and other chemicals in the water. Eliminating the breeding sites is the only sure and safe way to do the job.